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LETTERS, ETC. RELATING TO OPERATIONS OF THE SOC



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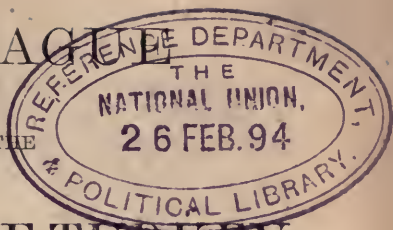
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THE LEAGUE

IN AID OF THE



# CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY,

*FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1875,*

14, COCKSPUR STREET, PALL MALL, LONDON.

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LETTERS, ETC.,

RELATING TO

OPERATIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

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1ST JANUARY, 1878.

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From His Eminence Michael, Archbishop of Belgrade,  
Metropolitan of Servia:—

“BELGRADE,

“January 19, 1876.

“DEAR SIR,

“I received duly your letter, enclosing a copy of the circular  
of ‘THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY.’

“We have an especial satisfaction in learning that the people  
of England have turned their hearts towards the poor suffering  
Christians in Turkey, and that they have come to the conviction  
that the Turks are unable to adapt themselves to the necessities  
of European civilization. We are thankful to Almighty God that  
England at length acknowledges this; and we hope from this  
change great benefits for the unhappy nations who have suffered  
so long from the tyranny of the Moslem.

“Hoping that the suffering Christians in Turkey will be earnestly  
benefited by the endeavours of your League, in which are so many  
friends of humanity, I beg you to convey my good wishes to the  
members of the League, and to accept for yourself the assurance  
of the sincere respect with which

“I remain, yours,

“Praying to God,

“MICHAEL,

“*Archbishop of Belgrade and  
Metropolitan of Servia.*

“To Monsieur Lewis Farley.”



*In One Vol., Demy 8vo.*

# TURKS & CHRISTIANS.

BY

J. LEWIS FARLEY,

AUTHOR OF

"THE MASSACRES IN SYRIA," "DECLINE OF TURKEY,"

"CROSS OR CRESCENT," &c.

This mournful story is one which every English Christian should read and consider well. Let Mr. Farley tell his own tale in his own graphic language; let him speak through the pages of the volume he has so opportunely presented to British statesmen and to the British nation, and we are persuaded the nation will rise indignantly against the oppression of its co-religionists in Turkey. It will withdraw from a policy of sustaining the debased and spend-thrift Turk on a throne he has long usurped, but has never filled either with credit to himself or with benefit to mankind.—*Monetary Gazette*.

Mr. Farley, there is no doubt, has some title to speak as an authority on Turkish affairs, and those interested will get much useful information from what he writes.—*Daily News*.

We recommend the volume of Mr. Farley to the thoughtful consideration of our readers. No one can rise from its perusal without having acquired a larger insight than he already possesses into the state of Turkey, and a larger knowledge of the crimes of its rulers. At a moment when the destinies of our fellow-Christians are in the balance, when the injustice of the Turkish Government is arraigned at the bar of the public opinion of Europe, this publication of Mr. Farley is well-timed. It is temperately written; it abounds with facts, it is suggestive as to the future, it is in every respect a valuable contribution to the history of the past, and a guide in the intricate policy of the present.—*John Bull*.

We have not seen any description of life in Turkey which gives so vivid and realizable a picture of the local government of Turkish provinces. Mr. Farley has collected his facts with much care, and put them clearly together, so as to form a very useful manual—better than any other which has yet been published—of the existing condition of things.—*Examiner*.

Mr. Farley's work is opportune. He has seized the moment when the English public has at length aroused itself from its complacent ignorance and negligent optimism, and has begun to display an interest in a political question, which, for half a century, has been supposed to be of supreme importance to it, but concerning which not one Englishman in 10,000 ever troubled his head for five consecutive seconds. Mr. Farley has seen a good deal of the East, and writes with some knowledge. His book contains valuable information.—*Observer*.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY

"THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY,"

January, 1876.

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NOTE.—Besides some thousands of circulars, the following publications were also issued by the League:—

Mr. Wesselitsky's reports to His Eminence Michael, Archbishop of Belgrade, on the "Condition of the Christians in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Report of Public Meeting held by the League in Manchester, on March 31, 1876.

Report of Public Meeting held by the League in Birmingham, April 6, 1876.

The "Christians in Turkey," by the Rev. A. A. Dawson, M.A.

"Cross or Crescent," by J. Lewis Farley.

The "Oriental Star" (weekly). Official Gazette of the League.



# THE LEAGUE

IN AID OF THE

## CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY.

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### PUBLIC MEETING IN MANCHESTER.

*From the "MANCHESTER EXAMINER," April 1, 1876.*

A public meeting, promoted by "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY," was held yesterday evening (March 31), in the Free Trade Hall—Mr. Hugh Mason, J.P., presiding.

The Chairman, after a few preliminary remarks, called upon Mr. Farley to propose the following resolution:—

That the wrongs and sufferings endured by the Christians of Turkey call for the practical sympathy of the people of England.

Mr. Lewis Farley said : I should have great diffidence in addressing this large and influential meeting if I did not know that the cause we advocate is one which is certain to evoke your sympathies. It is the cause of humanity and religious liberty, and that is a cause which never appeals in vain to the citizens of Manchester. (Hear, hear.) The question, however, which at the present moment agitates Europe is but imperfectly understood in England. Diplomacy has thrown around it so many complications, and personal interests are so deeply involved, that it is difficult for any one who has not given special attention to the subject to be able thoroughly to comprehend it. The people of England are more familiar with the black slave of Africa than with the white slave of South-Eastern

Europe ; much ignorance prevails as to the condition of the Christian Rayahs, and, as a natural result, great apathy exists. I do not blame the English people for this apathy, for, during the past twenty years they have been kept in the dark as to the true position of their fellow-Christians in Turkey. In the early part of 1860, Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed a circular to the Great Powers of Europe, pointing out the continuance of that injustice, of which the Christians in Turkey had so long complained, and which the Porte had, at various periods, for upwards of thirty years, promised should be removed. Upon the receipt of this circular, the English Government instructed Sir Henry Bulwer, Ambassador at Constantinople, to draw up a list of questions to be sent to our Consuls throughout Turkey. No persons could, from their position, better speak on such a subject. From their answers, honestly, faithfully, and intelligently given, we might have had a luminous survey of the Turkish Empire. Before sending in their answers, however, they were reminded that their very bread depended on the will of His Excellency, for Sir Henry Bulwer wrote to the Consuls as follows : — “ Her Majesty’s Government wishes, as you well know, to maintain the Ottoman Empire. . . . I assure you that your conduct at this crisis will be duly watched by me, and my opinion respecting it, whether favourable or the reverse, communicated to Her Majesty’s Government.” By means such as these—the systematic suppression of information—the requiring our Consuls to make one - sided, partial, and coloured statements—have the sympathies of the public of this country been diverted from the sufferings of the Christians in Turkey. One object of “**THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY**” is to tell the people of England the truth relative to the oppression and cruelties perpetrated by the Turks towards our fellow-Christians, and when, by meetings such as this held in other important towns, the English people shall know the facts, I feel assured they will, in an unmistakeable manner, evince their sympathies for men who are now endeavouring to free themselves from the tyranny they have so long endured. Gentlemen, with the political question we have nothing to do. The personal interests of Austria or of Russia are foreign to us, and the fate of Turkey itself has no longer any special interest for Englishmen. Our road to India does not lie through

Constantinople but through Egypt, and that road is now secure ; but even if our interests were involved, I do not believe that any assemblage of Englishmen could be found who would prefer their own interests at the sacrifice of those of humanity. (Hear, hear.) Twenty years ago, truth and falsehood contended, and falsehood prevailed ; the result was the Crimean War, which most persons now admit was a grievous mistake. We gave our money and our blood to uphold the tottering throne of the Sultan, and, after twenty years, we find that our support has been without result, that, on the contrary, corruption and decay are more apparent than ever, and the condition of the Christians in Turkey is worse to-day than it was fifty years ago. The condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan is a disgrace, not only to the civilization of our age, but also a shame to England and to Englishmen. The support we have given to Turkey has riveted the chains of slavery more firmly round the necks of the Christians, who now appeal to England to undo the work of the past and to set them free. (Hear, hear.) England was the first to break the manacles of the slave, and it cannot be that she will now be deaf to the cries of the Christian Slaves of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. (Cheers.) Neither the property, the honour, nor the life of a Christian is secure in Turkey. The state of Bosnia and Herzegovina especially is a state of inextricable disorder, of general pillage and tyranny, of which Englishmen can have no conception. The Christian Rayah is a mere slave, whose labour and whose life are at the disposal of his Mussulman oppressor, who does not even spare the wife or daughter of his victim. The evidence of a Christian against a Turk is inadmissible in the Courts, and the murder of a Christian, or the violation of a Christian woman by a Mussulman, is absolutely unnoticed by the law. The present insurrection had its rise in the violation by some Mussulmans of two women of Nevesinge, one of whom died from the violence she suffered. The Christian relatives, knowing that no complaint against the offenders would be heard in a Mussulman Court, took a short road to justice, and killed the Mussulmans. (Cheers.) The friends of the latter retaliated, and the little flame grew to a great one, because every Christian had some wrong to avenge, and knew there was no justice in the land. According to Turkish law, if a Mussulman violate a Christian woman, and convert her to Islamism, he is con-

sidered to have done a meritorious act, which entitles him, as a reward, to be freed from military service. As to conversion, the unfortunate girl has no alternative; for, if she appeal to the courts for redress, her evidence, as a Christian, is not admitted, and, consequently, she often embraces Islamism as the only means of covering her dishonour. It is not that the Christian Rayah is oppressed by taxation and forced labour, it is not that the Moslem is the lord of the soil, and the Christian is the "hewer of wood and the drawer of water," but it is because the dearest ties of human nature are outraged, that makes the lot of the Christians of Turkey so hard to bear. It is because the loved wife and the blooming daughter can be torn at any moment from the arms of a husband or a father, that the Christians of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria have risen in arms, and declare that they prefer death rather than return again under the hateful tyranny of the Turk. (Cheers.) A gentleman, who some time ago visited Herzegovina, told me that a Mussulman said to him, "The Christian women are beautiful, and their forms are perfect. Such women are not for Ghiaours, but for true believers." It is only two or three months ago since a Turkish Pasha in Angora caused twelve Christian girls to be seized and carried to his harem, while in the town of Eski-Zaghra, in Bulgaria, the Turks broke into several houses, where they violated half a score of young girls and three young married women. At the village of Terfikli, a priest was recently robbed on the road between Souhlari and Kavakli, his wife was violated in his presence, and he was himself stripped to his skin, and his very beard cut off his face. In Herzegovina, when the Mussulman Bey travels, he quarters himself on the unfortunate Christian, who is compelled to maintain him and his followers. The Bey makes his own bill of fare, selects the animals to be killed, and conducts himself as master of the house and everything in it, even to the wife and daughter of the Christian, if he have either unfortunate enough to be sufficiently attractive. "I questioned the people," says the correspondent of *The Times*, "as to their special grievances, and they all said the same thing—the Turks robbed them, took whatever they wanted, their animals, whatever they had in their houses, and even their daughters, when they took a fancy to them, and they never saw them any more." (Shame, shame.) Some time ago an English traveller



in Montenegro remonstrated with those noble mountaineers on their barbarism in sticking the heads of Turks on poles at their village gates, but they replied: "It is the only argument that can be used with such people, and it has this good effect, that they do not send for our wives and daughters as they do in Bosnia and Herzegovina." This, gentlemen, is the state of slavery to which the Christians of Turkey refuse any longer to submit; and I ask you this evening to declare before Europe that you, as Englishmen, will no longer give such an abominable state of things your countenance and support. The Christian of Turkey might well say to his Mussulman oppressor, as Icilius said to the tyrant Appius Claudius in the Forum at Rome :

Then leave the poor plebeian his single tie to life,  
 The sweet, sweet love of daughter, of sister, and of wife;  
 The gentle speech, the balm for all that his vex'd soul endures,  
 The kiss, in which he half forgets even such a yoke as yours;  
 Still let the maiden's beauty swell the father's heart with pride,  
 Still let the bridegroom's arms infold an unpolluted bride.  
 Spare us the inexpiable wrong, the unutterable shame,  
 That turns the coward's heart to steel, the sluggard's blood to flame;  
 Lest, when our latest hope is fled, ye taste of our despair,  
 And learn by proof in some wild hour, how much the wretched dare.

The time has at length arrived when the tyranny and merciless oppression perpetrated by the Turks upon the Christians can no longer be permitted to exist, and England, which has unwittingly sanctioned those crimes, is now bound to declare its views in reference to an alien people, alien in religion and in race, who, after establishing themselves in Europe by violence, persecute and ruin the Christian populations, cause them to groan under taxation and forced labour, play with their lives and their honour, profess an eternal hatred to our faith and our institutions, outrage humanity by their laws, menace the general peace by their weakness and incapacity, scandalize the world by their vices, crush industry in the most fertile parts of Europe, and sequester from civilization twelve millions of human beings. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, you have all heard a great deal lately of the Andrassy Note, and of the reforms promulgated by the Sultan. But both the note and the promised reforms are mere shams, for the reforms will never be carried out, and the Turks will never grant equality to the Christians. Already, in some

of the towns in Bosnia where the reforms have been notified, the Mussulmans have risen and massacred the Christians. Only a week ago, some Turks entered a Christian village and cut off the heads of four men and three women, which they carried in triumph on the muzzles of their rifles to the neighbouring town of Bilek. In presence of the Great Powers, the Porte will promise anything and everything; but when all restraint is gone, the Turk will wreak his vengeance on the defenceless Rayah. The Insurgents know this too well, and, therefore, they refuse to lay down their arms. If Austria had been sincere, she would have given some security for the life and honour of the Christians, but, in calling on the Insurgents to lay down their arms and trust to the promises of the Sultan, Austria would simply hand over the Christians to the vindictive and revengeful cruelties of the Moslems. I do not believe that Austria intends this, nor do I believe that she ever expected the Christians would return to their burnt homesteads and devastated fields, without some better security for their lives than the Sultan can give them. The Insurgents prefer to die on the field of battle, rather than tamely submit themselves to the yataghans of their oppressors. (Cheers.) That you may be able to form a just appreciation of the dependence to be placed on the promises of the Turks, permit me to tell you a circumstance that occurred during my residence in Turkey. Deir-el-Kamr, numbering 8000 inhabitants, was one of the most beautiful villages on Mount Lebanon. The Druses attacked this village, but the Christians drove back their enemies, the besieged losing 25 men, while the besiegers left 100 killed behind them. Barricades were then thrown up to defend the entrance to the village, and the Christians defended themselves successfully. In the meantime, Tahir Pasha, a Turkish general of division, arrived with 800 men, and, relying on his assurance that "they might depend on the protection of his troops," the Christians began to feel a comparative sense of security. All those who desired a place of safety were ordered to deliver up their arms, and go at once to the Serai. The order was obeyed, and before midnight many hundreds of women and children had crowded into the great court of the governor's palace, bringing with them their jewels, gold, and such other valuables as they could readily carry. This, however, was the manner in which the Turkish general fulfilled his promise. The following morning he opened the gates to the Druses, and then com-

menced a massacre which, for vindictiveness and cold-blooded atrocity, has never, perhaps, been exceeded. In many instances the Christians were first stripped naked, and then, stretched on the ground in the form of a cross, were hacked to pieces with swords and hatchets. Almost all had the right hand cut off, or the wrist deeply gashed—the instinctive feeling of self-preservation making them raise their arm to ward off the blows of their assailants. Male children were torn in two, and mothers, crouching over their offspring, saw the yataghans pierce their infants' bodies, after having first passed through their own. Deir-el-Kamr was set on fire, the bright flames shot up fiercely from burning homes, and the black smoke shut out the light of day, as if endeavouring to cover with an impenetrable veil the deeds of darkness and of blood which were being enacted. The Druses and the Turkish troops fell upon the unarmed Christians. At about two o'clock the fire had partially burned itself out, the smoke cleared away, and the sun looked down upon 2000 human bodies, made after the image of their Creator, now hacked, mutilated, and destroyed. There lay headless trunks, and gory heads wearing upon their features the expression of unutterable agony; children of three or four years old, whose innocence might have been their protection, and old men whose grey hairs might have been respected; women, wounded and dying upon the bodies of their lifeless infants; young girls, weeping for the brothers and fathers they had lost; and, in despairing accents, calling down Heaven's vengeance on their destroyers. The shrill cries of the men, the wild shrieks of the women, the blasphemous imprecations and hellish laughter of the Moslems, the shouts, the fire, and the smoke—all formed a scene at which humanity shudders, and from the contemplation of which the heart shrinks back sickened and appalled. Such is the fate that would await the Christians of Bosnia and Herzegovina if the Insurgents were foolish or mad enough to lay down their arms and trust to the promises of the Porte. Gentlemen, there are two sacred books (I am, of course, speaking in reference to Turkey)—the Koran and the Bible; two religions—that of Mahommed and that of Christ. Now, I want you to ask yourselves these questions: "Which of these sacred books do I believe in? Which of these two religions do I profess?" When you have answered those questions you will understand the grave issues that are before you. In European



Turkey 1,150,000 Turks, aided by 2,000,000 Mussulmans, the Slavonic descendants of Christian renegades, dominate over 12,000,000 Christians, who, in those parts subject to the direct rule of the Sultan, are victims of the most barbarous cruelty, the most grinding tyranny, and the most inhuman persecutions. The Christians of Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria have determined to live no longer under such a detestable rule, and they have taken up arms in defence of their homes and altars, their honour, their liberty, and their lives. On one side are men fighting under the standard of the Cross; on the other, under the standard of the Crescent. Which of those two sides will you support? That of the followers of Christ, or of the followers of Mahommed? That of the oppressed, or of the oppressors? I cannot doubt what your reply will be; and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your answer will give consolation to the 150,000 old men, women, and children who are outcast from their homes, and have sought a shelter in Servia, Montenegro, Dalmatia, and under the bare rocks of the mountains of Croatia; your answer will nerve the arms of those patriots who have sworn to conquer or to die, and will teach the dishonest ministers of the Sultan that they can no longer depend upon the support of Englishmen in the continuance of their fanaticism, their barbarism, and their corruption. (Applause.)

Mr. R. D. Rusden seconded the resolution, which was carried amidst much applause.

Speeches were also delivered by the Rev. R. G. Griffiths, Mr. Councillor G. Booth, Hugh Mason, J.P., &c.

Letters were read from Earl Russell, The Right Rev. the Bishop of Manchester, Sir Thos. Bazley, Bart., M.P., Mr. C. J. Monk, M.P., and others.

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## PUBLIC MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM.

*From the "BIRMINGHAM DAILY POST," April 7, 1876.*

A public meeting, promoted by "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS IN TURKEY," was held on Thursday evening, April 6, in the Lecture Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. J. S. Wright, J.P., occupied the chair, and among those present were the Rev. H. B. Bowlby, Rev. Grant Brown, Rev. R. J. Griffiths, Mr. George Dawson, M.A., Mr. Lewis Farley, Dr. Nutting, Councillor Heyden, Messrs. W. Morgan, Paraviso, G. Hanson, &c.

Mr. Farley addressed the meeting at some length, and drew a fearful picture of the abominable treatment to which Christians were made to submit. He gave instances of the treachery with which the Turks treated the Christians, and concluded his speech, which was greeted with much applause, by asking his hearers whether they would support the tyrannical followers of Mahommed or the oppressed followers of Christ.

Mr. George Dawson said: The resolution I am asked to move is this:

That the wrongs and sufferings of the Christians of Turkey call for the practical sympathy of the people of England.

Mr. Chairman, the comparative smallness of this meeting is neither a discouragement nor an astonishment. When I called the first meeting that was ever held in England on behalf of the Hungarian insurrection against Austria, the meeting was no bigger than this, and I have lived to see Hungary assert its independence of Austria. (Applause.) I was one of three who, in a country house, founded the society of the Friends of Italy, in order to keep the oppression of that country before this country. The smallness of the meeting gave me no discouragement. I have lived to see Italy united, and with Rome for its capital. It is pleasant to be in at the beginning of things. There are always plenty of people ready to be in at the end. (Laughter.) Now, this cause, which looks so small, being the cause of justice and righteousness, will, like these other causes, have its day of splendour and success. If you had known all before going into the Crimean War, it is possible you might not

have gone into it. There were those who told us that the Turk was a reformable person, and when I speak of the Turk now, I am not speaking of the honest, humble, industrious Turk, but I am speaking of his precious rulers. Of course, when you draw the characters of rulers, you draw, to a certain degree, an accusation against the people, for it is a shame for a people to be ruled over by such a vile ruler as the Sultan. Now, it is imposible, so far as I can read, to make out a worse ruler than the Turk has just now; and as long as the system of the Sultan's private life and manners, as long as the taxes wrung out of the people go to the support of the most sensual despotism this world has ever had, as long as a nation has rulers who, from debauchery, have lost the little brains which have descended to them—and God knows they are small enough—as long as that is the case, no matter what the people are, they may be honest as some of the Turks, but with such rulers, I think it is impossible for us any longer to give the Turks support. I cannot say I am sorry that the Turks have turned bankrupt, although there are Englishmen to whom this is the last crowning sin. To have oppressed a nation, or dishonoured the women of the Christians—well, well, well; but not to pay the bondholders, not to pay your debts, that is the last iniquity. (Laughter.) We have nearly all done with Turkey now. And I have no pity for the bondholder, not the least. Of all ways of supporting a nation, that is the meanest, for you support him for your own good, and the largeness of the interest blinds men to the conditions of the getting it. I have no pity for the Turkish bondholder. With a greedy covetousness he went in for an impossible interest, and when I read that the fates have overtaken him, I am delighted—(laughter)—for he contributed money for a system utterly base, for purposes utterly degrading, and he now has his recompense. I trust that he will swell the numbers with his virtuous indignation, of those who think that the country can give no more support to the Turkish Government. (Applause.) Now, what we are here for to-night is not to urge the statesman to war, nor to urge him on to peace. I for one want to wash my hands in public of any manner of support to the Turks in their oppression of the Christians. If these people were not Christians, and were similarly oppressed, I should take their side. (Loud applause.) The mere calling of a man a Christian is not sufficient talisman and charm to make me defend him, but

when the being a Christian, even in name, is a ground for tyranny, oppression, disgrace, insult, barbarity, cruelty, and death, then I say any man that bears it, if he bears it no deeper than a name, is bound to proclaim that, as far as he is concerned, the profession of Christianity shall not be the cause of oppression, tyranny, and death. (Loud applause.) I have heard sneers on the Bosnian Christians. People say, "Well, they serve the Turks as badly as the Turks serve them." I think it is highly probable. It is an old argument, a stale argument, and a vile argument, to bring the vices of the slave, engendered by slavery, as a justification of the cruelty of the slaveholder who has taught him; for, remember, he who makes a slave by outward bonds, creates a slave in inward feeling. If I were certain that the success of the Bosnians would lead to retaliation upon the Turk, I should still support the Bosnian; not advising him to retaliate. But then you know human nature is very much human nature in all parts of the world, and it is a hard thing to bear oppression's sting, and not to turn upon it when you have the chance. We are here to ask you two or three things; we are here to ask you to say, each for yourselves, that the Turk—the Turkish Government—those nasty Tartars here in Europe, shall have no manner of support from you, moral nor, if possible, political; that we have done with them, that we have fought for them, and that our bondholders have paid for them—(laughter)—and as a nation, if possible, we decline to fight for them any longer. Having fought for these people, and that Government having made solemn promises, before Europe, that certain things should be done, we charge them that they have never done them; nay, we charge the Mahommedan that by his creed, he is not bound to keep his word to an infidel, that not one single promise that was made to this nation in return for all the blood we shed for them has ever been kept, and no promise ever will be kept except by compulsion. Therefore, what I should like this nation to say, would be: "You Turks, look out for yourselves; do not expect anything from us—neither money, nor men, nor moral support, nor high admiration. Get a pair of heels to your shoes as fast as you can, and if you have not sense to do that, shuffle off in your slippers back into Asia from whence you came." (Applause.) The rulers of the Turks are irredeemable, irreclaimable, sensual wretches, and if the Divine Government, in its mercy,



had not changed, there would be a new Sodom and Gomorrah as the fittest fate for the rulers of Turkey. If that is plain language, I am glad; I cannot find any plainer. They are in a hopeless state. I say myself, with Lord Palmerston, "What can you expect from a people who have no heels to their shoes?" (Laughter.) Had I been a bondholder, that would have taught me they must be slippery, and would, in time, slip out of their pecuniary obligations, as they had already slipped out of political rightcousness. Therefore, I for one wash my hands of the Turks. To the poor Turk I am a friend; for his necessities in Asia Minor a subscriber; if he starves, I feed him; his being a Mahommedan is no ground of hatred to me; but I will not suffer, as far as I can, that the being a Christian, even of a poor sort, shall be an occasion for insult, tyranny, and contempt. Now, of course, it is not for me to tell statesmen what to do; I must leave the potsherds of the world to strive with the potsherds; I should only like to tell statesmen that the best thing they could do would be to talk openly, to keep open counsel with nations, to give up the mystery-mongering, of which we have just now such wonderful specimens, and not to give us secrets doled out with a sort of feminine love for a mystery, which you will find in many women who keep you in an agony of expectation till the last moment, and then the mountain brings forth some most ridiculous mouse. (Laughter.) Now, I intend for one to stir up the English people to examine for themselves whether or not the presence of the Turk in Europe is any longer desirable—to persuade this nation never to fight for the Turks again. Did we but live in an age of sense or reason, one would think the Great Powers of Europe might be strong enough to arrange for the retreat of the Turk into Asia, and if he would not retreat, they might make such a judicious application to the stern works of the Turkish Government, as might enable them to see their way, if not with perspicuity, at least with speed, to return to the place from which they came. As to what is to be done with Bosnia and Herzegovina, in case the insurrection is successful, that is not for this meeting. It is a difficult question, but surely all Europe in council ought to be able to devise some plan by which these rich Danubian countries could either be confederated together, or put under some protectorate. There are princes enough, and to spare in Europe, with nothing to do, and as we made a king of

Greece, surely we might, you know, make a king of the Danube if necessary. But these are questions into which I will not enter to-night. I simply wish to express the profound sympathy of this meeting with the oppressed Christians of these provinces. We tender to them our support in their misery, for the wrongs they have borne are such as make patience no longer respectable—endurance any longer, simply vileness. There is a time in history when the modesties of human nature overcome the instincts of peace; and as an insurrection once came in this country because of an outraged girl, so one expects no men, who have a spark of manhood in them, would stand by when a set of sensual wretches profane the last holy sanctity of the house and of the heart. Leaving the settlement for the present, and meddling with the politics of this matter at some other time, we simply ask you to express your sympathy for these poor insurrectionists. Tell them that their cause is good, and, at any rate, if we do not fight for them, which I do not advocate, I do not see why we should not keep the ring and prevent anybody's meddling. We say, "Stand off," and if the Turk is this admirable and noble person that some of his upholders say, give him a fair field; let the Christian fight it out with him, and if nobody else meddles I know which side will win. The numbers and the cause, its righteousness and its justice, will secure the victory for the Christians. (Applause.)

Speeches were also delivered by the Rev. H. B. Bowlby, Mr. G. Hanson, The Rev. R. J. Griffiths, Dr. Nutting, and the Rev. Grant Brown.

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From his Eminence Michael, Archbishop of Belgrade,  
Metropolitan of Servia:—

“ BELGRADE,

“ May 17, 1876.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I have great pleasure in informing you that I have received the cheque for £100 sent to me in your letter of the 9th instant.

“ I, as the President of the Board for the Relief of Suffering Christians, wish I could convey to you the great importance which is here given to the movement in England on behalf of the suffering Rayahs. It is hailed as a sign of good promise. Christians in Turkey know well that when once the attention of the English people is drawn to the misrule of the Turks in the Balkan peninsula, the generous heart of that great nation will prompt it to be among the most active friends of the suffering Christians who are struggling for life and freedom.

Praying God that He may bless abundantly your efforts and those of your compatriots in the charitable and righteous cause, and thanking you and all your friends for what has been already achieved,

“ I remain,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ MICHAEL,

“ *Archbishop of Belgrade, Metropolitan of Servia.*

“ To J. Lewis Farley, Esq.”



## DEPUTATION TO LORD DERBY.

*From "THE TIMES," July 15, 1876.*

Lord Derby, with whom was Lord Tenterden, permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, received yesterday, in the large Conference Room of the Foreign Office, a deputation on the policy of Great Britain in regard to the present war, from "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY." The following were among those who took part in this deputation:—The Earl of Morton, Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., Messrs. Samuel Morley, M.P., Jacob Bright, M.P., C. J. Monk, M.P., E. Jenkins, M.P., E. Collins, M.P., P. A. Taylor, M.P., J. S. Wright, J.P., and J. Lewis Farley.

Mr. Farley read the following memorial signed by Lord Russell in the name of "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY":—

"Twenty years have passed since the Treaty of Paris guaranteed the 'Integrity of the Ottoman Empire,' and since the Hatt-y-Humayoum of 1856 proclaimed the equality before the law, irrespective of nationality or religion, of all the subjects of the Porte. During these twenty years the Government of the Sultan has been free from foreign interference, and has been supported financially to the extent of two hundred millions sterling. At the present moment, however, it is acknowledged that the 'Integrity of the Ottoman Empire' is a delusion, and the support given by England has only resulted in bringing misery and want into many English homes, and in riveting the chains of slavery more firmly round the necks of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

"'Turkey' and 'the Turks' are not synonymous terms, for Turkey is an empire inhabited by many races professing different religious creeds. If England had given her support to Turkey, there would have been no just cause of complaint, as, in that case, the interests of all her peoples would have been equally considered. But, in giving support to the Turks, England has upheld the dominance of the ruling race, who are in a minority, and subjected the Christians, who are the majority, to a cruel and revolting despotism, which is a disgrace to the civilization of our age, and has at length driven its victims to take up arms in defence of their homes, their honour, and their lives.

“During the past 20 years reforms have been repeatedly promulgated by the Porte, but the Imperial edicts promising equal rights to the Christians remain to this day without effect. It could not be otherwise, as the religious and social doctrines of Islamism are in total contradiction to the principles of Christianity, and the application of the same *régime* to the two creeds is utterly impracticable. The Mahommedan law, founded as it is exclusively on the Koran, is unalterable and inviolable, and its dogmas are altogether opposed to the civil and religious equality of the Christian subjects of a Mussulman Power. The law of the Koran only permits the Christian to retain life and property on conditions incompatible with the equality of all classes before the law—such equality being, in fact, contrary not only to the text of the Koran itself, but to the whole spirit of Mahommedan jurisprudence. Equality between the Christians and Mussulmans is consequently impossible. Imperial ‘Hatts’ promising reforms may again be issued, but those reforms will never be carried out. The pacification of the East can, therefore, only be attained by the enfranchisement of the Christians, who must be separated from the Mahommedans, with a complete autonomy, which can alone protect them from Mussulman oppression.

“At the present moment all Europe sympathizes with the oppressed Christians of Turkey, while England stands alone in her support of their oppressors. The religious feelings of a great portion of the English people are shocked at being made to appear before the world as the upholders of Islamism, thus meriting the taunt that their Christianity is only a profession, not a belief, and their love of liberty but a mere empty boast.

“We, therefore, pray your lordship, in the interests of peace, to withhold your support, moral and political, from the Government of His Majesty the Sultan, and to permit the Christians of European Turkey to carve out their future destiny, without any external interference whatever.”

Lord Derby replied at considerable length, and concluded his remarks by stating that, “With regard to the practical question at issue, our duty of not interfering between the Turks and the people of Servia and Montenegro, as to that, he did not think there was any difference between himself and those he was addressing.”

The deputation thanked Lord Derby, and withdrew.

From His Excellency M. Ristitch, Servian Minister for  
Foreign Affairs:—

“ PRINCIPAUTÉ DE SERBIE,

“ MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGÈRES,

“ BELGRADE,

“ *July 25, 1876.*

“ DEAR MR. FARLEY,

“ I thank you most sincerely, in my own name and in the name of my compatriots, for the generous sentiments by which you have been actuated in undertaking the defence of a cause so just as is that of the emancipation and enfranchisement of the Christians of Turkey. You cannot think, dear Sir, how much you have attracted all our sympathies by your enterprise, and to what extent you have the right to our gratitude.

“ In thanking you again for all your zeal in defending our cause, I gladly take this opportunity to offer you the assurance of my highest consideration.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Your very devoted,

“ M. BAN.

“ To Monsieur Lewis Farley.”

## PUBLIC MEETING IN LONDON.

*From "THE TIMES," July 28, 1876.*

A meeting called by "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY" was held yesterday, at Willis's Rooms, in the lower hall. Lord Shaftesbury was in the chair, and was supported by the following members of Parliament:—Professor Smythe, M.P., Mr. D. M'Laren, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., Mr. G. Anderson, M.P., Mr. W. H. James, M.P., Mr. Mundella, M.P., Mr. Mackintosh, M.P., Hon. C. H. Howard, M.P., Mr. W. Holms, M.P., Mr. J. Holms, M.P., Sir T. Bazley, Bart., M.P., Mr. A. M'Arthur, M.P., Mr. W. M'Arthur, M.P., Mr. E. Jenkins, M.P., Professor Fawcett, M.P., Mr. J. K. Cross, M.P., Mr. C. Harrison, M.P., Mr. J. F. Harrison, M.P., Mr. Callan, M.P., Mr. Collins, M.P., Mr. Monk, M.P., The O'Donaghue, M.P., Mr. Ramsay, M.P. There were also present Sir Charles Wingfield, Mr. Lewis Farley, Major De Winton, Major Burgess, Mr. Edmond Beales, Mr. J. G. Holyoake, Mr. R. Hill, and many others.

Lord Shaftesbury said: We are assembled here to-day not to express any strong and national feeling on the subject of Turkey and her abominable misdoings, for we have not yet ascertained the feeling of the country, but, rather, to take such a course of action as may elicit an expression of that feeling which we believe to be general in all parts of the United Kingdom. We hail with satisfaction the declaration by Lord Derby that the Government will maintain rigidly a policy of non-intervention in the present dispute between Turkey and the insurgent provinces, and that England will not lend to the Ottoman Porte any material or moral support whatever in the present conflict. Our desire is to call on the country to endorse that policy, and extend to the Government the aid of the whole nation in persevering in that most becoming career. Perhaps, in most similar instances, such a course would be in accordance with the view of the people of England; but here it has a deep and peculiar interest, for the events of the movement have taken it out of the category of ordinary affairs, and have placed it among the most atrocious and distressing in the history of mankind. It has become a question—certainly it has so



to my own mind—whether it is not a sin and a disgrace to continue in alliance with such a Government. (Applause.) . . . Surely it is high time for the kingdoms of Europe to interfere and declare that Turkey is a spectacle disgusting to humanity and wholly unfit to exercise rule and authority. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, it has been asserted, and, perhaps, it will be so still, that the existence of Turkey is essential to what is called the balance of power. I doubt it; and were it so, I should hesitate to maintain even so good a thing by the sacrifice of so many millions of the human race. The balance of power would be far better maintained by clusters of flourishing, vigorous, and civilized communities, in the place of ignorance, spoliation, and ferocity. Thus far I believe that I speak the sentiments of many. Now I venture to speak only for myself when I say that, looking at the present state of things, believing that the future will be much more terrible than the present, being deeply convinced that the rule of the Ottoman Porte is utterly beyond remedy—(applause)—utterly incorrigible—(applause)—I, for one, would rather, in view of the interests of the whole commonwealth of mankind, see the Russians on the Bosphorus than the Turks in Europe. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lewis Farley said he had received a letter from Lord Russell, who expressed great sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and regretted that, though he would much desire to be present, the delicate state of his health prevented him from being able to be so. He would next read a dispatch from the Servian Government, which he had just received. It was an exposition of the causes which had led to the war between Servia and Turkey, and foreshadowed that greater war which threatened Europe. Lord Derby, in his answer to the address which the present speaker had the honour of presenting to him, said that the policy of the British Government was non-intervention, provided that no other Power intervened. Human sympathies, however, could not be held back by any barriers of diplomacy, and the time might come when the Russian Government, goaded on by the Russian people, would come forward to the assistance of the Slavonian Christians. The important question now was, whether, in such an event, if the Russian Government, forced by the Russian people, came forward on behalf of the oppressed, would the British people allow the British Government to interfere on behalf of the

oppressors? Mr. Farley then read the following Servian manifesto, sent for use at this meeting, and dated Belgrade, July 17 :—

“ Every student of history, indeed every educated man, well knows that the Servian people, which previous to their period of suffering possessed a large civilized State, including Bulgaria, and extending to the frontier of Epirus, shed their blood and lost their liberty while acting as the bulwark of Western Europe against the invading onslaught of Mussulman barbarians. Even at that time it was the jealousy of neighbouring Christian States which allowed this bulwark to fall, hoping thereby to obtain some advantage for themselves. The Roman Papacy especially, which formerly sent forth crusades against the infidels, hoped that the Turkish invasion would bring about the total destruction of its rival, the Greek Orthodox Church, and committed the most unchristian-like act of preventing others who were not so shortsighted from coming to the help of the Servian Empire. It was not until the final overthrow of Servia at the battle of Kossowa Polje that neighbouring states saw the grievous error they had committed, and that, in their endeavour to injure Greek Orthodoxy, they had brought themselves to the brink of destruction. The last barrier being broken down, the rapacious hordes of Islam overran Hungary, and soon stood before the gates of Vienna. Christendom was in danger of destruction when the saviour of Western Europe, in the person of Sobieski, compelled the Turks to retire from Vienna, and to limit their conquests to the country above Buda, the chief town of Hungary, where for a century and a half they revelled in blood, in murder, and in rapine. Christendom had lost its strength in its efforts to drive the Crescent from Europe, and looked on with apathy at the massacres and nameless atrocities committed by the Turks; but the Servians still retained their old national sentiments in their hearts—sentiments which were handed down from sire to son in songs and poems that told of heroic deeds, and kept the feeling of patriotism still alive in the soul of the down-trodden Servian Rayah. The Servians suffered in silence, and waited painfully and sorrowfully for the day of their deliverance. Although late, that day at length came for a portion of the Servian people, and in the beginning of the present century the Servian Rayah, after protracted and exhausting hardships, succeeded in winning a home-stead—small, it is true, but free. The handful of Servians who

escaped with their bare lives from the yataghans and the gibbets of the Turks, set to work in their little principality to acquire those habits of Western civilization which the barbarism of their former masters denied them; and after 50 years this miniature State has attained a position of progress of which their former oppressors will never be capable.

“In this enlightened nineteenth century the Christians of European Turkey, especially the subjected Slavs, have suffered the most inhuman persecutions, probably because the fear existed that they, too, would also attempt, like the Servians in the Principality, to gain their freedom. Insurrections broke out several times in Herzegovina and in isolated districts of Bosnia. The barbarities perpetrated on the poor Rayah daily increased. In vain the heartrending cry of woe was addressed to the European Powers, but there was no pity for the Slavonian Rayah. The imaginary spectre of Panslavism was all that could be seen. The brutal Turks were allowed to pillage, violate, and murder to their heart's content, and Europe looked on unmoved.

“Serbia and Montenegro felt the sufferings of their brothers, for the tortures endured by the Slavs moved their hearts and stirred their blood; but Europe desired to condemn Serbia and Montenegro to the agonizing punishment of being compelled to play the part of lookers-on.

“A year ago the insurrection in Herzegovina broke out once more, and all the power of the Ottoman Empire has, after 12 months, been unable to suppress it. Europe sided with the ‘legitimate’ Government, but in vain. That great, but cruel and barbarous State has been shaken to its very centre, its leaders have been rapidly changed, the ruler himself has toppled from his throne and lost his life, the decayed State bark has been shipwrecked, and ‘the dying man,’ in his furious rage, only found one thing he was still able to accomplish—to injure Serbia and Montenegro with his venomous calumnies. There was no longer hope for peace. Serbia and Montenegro were compelled to offer resistance to the Turkish fanatics, and two weeks ago the war begun—on the part of Turkey with the cry, ‘Extermination of the Slavonian Christian dogs,’ and on the part of Serbia with the words, ‘Dignified existence and liberty for our enslaved Christian brothers.’ It is only necessary to be a



human being to know that our cause is just, and that we have taken up arms in defence of the highest and holiest interests of civilization and humanity.

"The two small States of Servia and Montenegro, with their population of one million and a half, must now, with God's blessing, endeavour to put a stop to that oppression which civilized Europe might long since have refused to tolerate. They will either accomplish their mission or fall in the unequal struggle, but history will record the shame of those who now render services to the oppressors. On our part it is a question of self-defence, and it should be made known to the whole world that we can no longer permit the cruel massacre of our brothers, and that our object, which we will carry out even to the sacrifice of the last drop of our blood, is to rescue our brethren from the vampire that has so long preyed upon them. The future administration of the districts in which our Slavonian brothers have their homes must never again be directly in the hands of their brutal executioners, but in the hands of the people themselves and of the authorities whom they may elect. By this means only can our brethren be able gradually to obtain the fruits of civilization, and, without in the least convulsing Europe, become in a little time a link in the chain which unites enlightened peoples for the benefit of progress and humanity.

"These politicians and diplomatists commit a grave error who see in the horrible persecution of the Rayah the only means of maintaining for some time longer the so-called balance of power, for should the atrocities be permitted to continue, the heart-rending cries of distress of the Christians in the Balkan Peninsula will not appeal in vain to humanity. The Government of Russia, whose people are connected with us by blood, race, and religion, will be obliged to cast off the stoical calmness with which it has looked on at the scenes of violation, rapine, and murder, perpetrated by the Mussulmans, and will have to rouse itself from its lethargy, and hasten to the rescue of the Slavonian Christians. Then will occur what diplomacy desires to prevent—namely, a Russian invasion of Turkey. Those, however, who stand in fear of this result, should learn in time to have some feelings of human nature, and they will then not help to fan a flame which may envelope Europe and themselves."

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The noble Chairman's eloquent speech at this now famous meeting sounded the key-note of public opinion, and his lordship was followed by speakers whose fearless denunciation of the atrocities perpetrated in Bulgaria sent a thrill of horror throughout the land, and aroused, to a degree that nothing had previously done, the sympathies and the indignation of the British people. Numerous public meetings were subsequently held by "THE LEAGUE" in various provincial towns, the most important of which was, perhaps, that held at Croydon, where the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., delivered one of the most effective speeches made upon the question.

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### PUBLIC MEETING AT CROYDON.

*From "THE TIMES," September 14, 1876.*

A large number of the inhabitants of Croydon assembled last night in the public hall of that town in order to express their horror and disgust at the atrocities perpetrated by the Turks in Bulgaria. Mr. J. Spencer Balfour took the chair, and was supported by Mr. Grantham, M.P., the Rev. J. A. Spurgeon, Dr. Carpenter, the Rev. N. Parkyn, the Rev. A. Davies, and the Rev. R. R. Suffield. The Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., and Mr. Lewis Farley were also present on the platform.

The Rev. J. A. Spurgeon moved, and Dr. Carpenter seconded, the first resolution, as follows :—

That this meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Croydon records its sense of horror and disgust at the terrible outrages committed by the Turks, with the tacit approval of the Ottoman Government, upon the unarmed population of Bulgaria.

Mr. Lewis Farley, secretary of "THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY," supported the resolution, and in doing so said that, instead of making a speech, he would read the following letter which he had just received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Servia :—

“ BELGRADE,

“ *September 5, 1876.*

“I wish to call your particular attention to the barbarous manner with which the Porte, in spite of the representations of the Powers, continues to make war in the Principality.

“The Turkish Army has completely devastated all the territory that it has traversed in Servia, burnt the towns and villages which have made no resistance, carried off the cattle, laid waste the fields, violated the women, and killed all the men they have been able to seize. It is, in fact, a repetition of the horrors that have been committed in Bulgaria, and if these atrocities are on a smaller scale, it is not from any want of will on the part of the Turks, but simply because the population retire on their approach.

“Do not suppose that this system of extermination is at all decreasing. During the six days' battle (August 19-24) which the Servians gained on the right bank of the Morava, near Alexinatz, the Turkish army burnt every village it could reach. At present it is fighting on the left bank, and the telegraph of yesterday announces that all the villages on this side also have been burnt, and all the fields destroyed. A member of the Red Cross Society, Lucas Pavovich, surprised by the Bashi-Bazouks while in the performance of his duty, had the arm cut off on which he bore the sign of the Red Cross, and expired in a few moments afterwards. During the before-mentioned battle of six days the Turkish Artillery particularly directed its fire against a Servian ambulance of the Red Cross where the wounded were provisionally placed, and only ceased to fire on it when the flag bearing the red cross had been struck down by a shot.

“After the Turks had been repulsed from the right bank of the Morava, heartrendering cries were heard during the night from the left bank, to which they had retired. The next morning a frightful spectacle presented itself to the horrified gaze of the Servians. Eight men were seen hanging from gibbets, but four of them had had their feet and legs burnt under a slow fire, while the other four had been partly flayed alive. The cause of the cries heard during the night needed no further explanation.

“You have, of course, remarked, in the report of the American Consul on the massacres in Bulgaria, that the Turks everywhere destroyed the churches and the schools. They made war in the most

horrible manner, not only against the Christian populations, but also against the little European civilization that has been able to penetrate into the country. They endeavour to replunge Eastern Europe into the barbarism of Asia. They are acting now in a similar manner in Old Servia, in Herzegovina, and in Bosnia ; everywhere the Turks, besides the atrocities committed on the Christians, take particular care to destroy the convents and burn the churches and schools.

“ It is only fifteen days ago that a flying column of the Servian Army of the Drina accompanied about 100 women and children, who had escaped from the Turks when the latter had burnt their village in the neighbourhood of Belina. The column, composed of only 250 men, being pursued by a battalion of Nizams, stopped to repulse the enemy. Unfortunately, at the first discharge of musketry, the frightened women fled for refuge into a small wood close by ; but while half of the battalion remained in front of the Servian column, the other half threw themselves into the wood, and the women and children were mercilessly slaughtered.

“ The Turks are determined to continue the war in the same manner. The *Pester Lloyd* is not ashamed to announce, in its number for Aug. 27, that the Porte have ordered the purchase of a large quantity of petroleum for the purpose of burning the towns and villages of Servia.”

The second resolution was proposed and seconded by the Rev. W. Clarkson and Mr. Morland, and supported, in an exhaustive speech, by the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P.

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From His Excellency M. Ristitch, Servian Minister for  
Foreign Affairs:—

“PRINCIPALITY OF SERVIA,

“MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

“BELGRADE,

“*September 1, 1876.*

“DEAR SIR,

“I have already had the honour of expressing to you my sentiments of esteem and gratitude for the zeal, as intelligent as indefatigable, that you have displayed in England for the cause of the Christians of the East, and if I again recur to this subject it is because I am expressly charged to assure you that those sentiments in your regard, as well as in regard to all the members of the society of which you are the secretary, are shared not only in the governmental circles of the Principality, but also by the citizens of Belgrade.

“The latter, deeply moved by the marks of sympathy that have been evinced from all parts of Europe for the martyrs of the East, and by the generous defence undertaken in their favour, have communicated with the Mayor of Belgrade, in order to give expression to their sentiments in an address, which has already been sent to London.

“It is with great satisfaction that I communicate this fact to you, as it proves once more that in Servia we know how to appreciate the magnanimous efforts of men who labour in the work of the liberty and moral solidarity of the peoples, a work which does honour to our age, and cannot fail to produce precious fruit in the future.

“Accept once more, dear Sir, the assurance of my unalterable esteem.

“M. BAN.

“To Mr. J. Lewis Farley.”

## THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN SERVIA.

*From the "DAILY NEWS" (Leading Article), August 1, 1876.*

"Our readers will learn with satisfaction that 'THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY' is about to send out a medical representative to the seat of war, with a supply of medicines and surgical appliances. Two ladies, well known for their services to the sick and wounded in the Franco-German war, will presently leave for Belgrade. In the meantime, subscriptions in aid of this work may be sent in the manner indicated by Mr. Farley, whose letter we publish this morning. . . . When it is known that a society in which trust can be placed has its agents at the seat of war, no doubt the charity of the English people will soon supply them with means of alleviating the present distress. Most things about the present conflict are hard enough to understand, and there is room and reason for varying sympathies, but all may meet in this one feeling, and all may find outlet in this expression of humanity."

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*Note.*—Four surgeons, two dressers, and three nurses were sent by the League to Serbia in the month of August, together with an ample supply of medical stores.

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From His Excellency M. Ristitch, Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

"PRINCIPALITY OF SERVIA,

"MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

"BELGRADE,

"November 17, 1876.

"MONSIEUR,

"Mr. Lamson has handed me your esteemed letter of November 2nd instant, in which you have been good enough to inform me that your League has confided to him the mission of

distributing among the wounded and victims of the war the relief of which he is the bearer, and which he may subsequently receive from your society.

"It is hardly necessary for me to say that Mr. Lamson will receive from me, as well as from all the members of the Government, the most earnest co-operation for the accomplishment of the mission of humanity with which he is charged. Penetrated with gratitude towards yourself and towards your noble compatriots for the generous aid you have sent to the victims of a cruel war, we shall consider it a duty to facilitate as much as we can the mission of your representative.

"Mr. Lamson has spoken to me, amongst other things, of the intention of your League to establish in London a journal devoted to the defence of Christian interests in the East. Such a publication, the object of which would be to make known to the English public the true aspirations and wants of the Christian peoples of the East, would certainly be of great utility for the cause for which they have taken up arms, and we cannot but felicitate ourselves upon its publication.

"Permit me here to express all the gratitude which we feel for your persevering efforts in interesting your countrymen in the fate of the Christian populations of the East, and representing their cause in its true light. All the proofs of sympathy we have received from you and from the English nation are fully appreciated here, and if, in relieving a great misfortune, the English people follow a tradition that is dear to them, the Servians, on their side, will not show themselves forgetful of the benefits they have received.

"I take this opportunity of thanking you most sincerely for your devotion to our interests, and at the same time to assure you of my high esteem.

"J. RISTITCH.

"To Mr. J. Lewis Farley, Secretary of the League in  
in Aid of the Christians of Turkey."

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From His Eminence, Michael Archbishop of Belgrade:—

“BELGRADE,

“December 14/26, 1876.

“REVEREND SIR,

“As you are about to leave Belgrade, I regard it as an agreeable duty to assure you of our sense of the large extent which the succours you have brought to our poor sufferers from the war have lightened their burden and helped them to support the hard lot which this conflict has entailed upon them. At the same time, I desire you to feel that you bear away with you the gratitude of those whom you have comforted, a feeling which we all share.

“The Churches of England and America have won our warm friendship; while to yourself and to ‘THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY’ we owe an eternal gratitude.

“Accept, dear Sir, the assurance of my very distinguished consideration.

“MICHAEL,

“*Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan of Servia.*

“To the Rev. W. O. Lamson, Representative of the League in Aid of the Christians of Turkey.”

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From Vasa Givanovitch, Prefect of the District of Craïna:—

“VERY VENERABLE MONSIEUR LAMSON,

“The friends of humanity, the friends of Christianity, and the friends of liberty have hastened from every part of the civilized world to support our holy enterprise, and to facilitate its triumph. While our heroes are contending on the battle-field against tyranny, the friends of truth are striving in the field of literature against ignorance, and are aiding to dispel the political darkness which has weighed upon our brethren for nearly five centuries.

“Servia, my beloved country, is happy and proud to be able to

count upon both fields an immense number of friends, among which is 'THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY,' of which you, venerable Sir, are the worthy representative.

"During your sojourn in our district, while distributing paternally to the victims of the war rich gifts of money, clothing, shoes, &c., you left in the hearts of all Servians who had the honour and the joy of making your acquaintance an agreeable memory, so that they will never forget you.

"Two thousand poor and orphans of Negotin, Salash, Coprivnitza, Rgotina, Velica Yassicova, Mala Yassicova, Glogovitza, Bregovo, Cossovo, Deleina, Rakitnitza, Novo Selo, Gnzovo, Belgradhik, &c., &c., to whom you were good enough to distribute clothing, shoes, &c., as well as the poor sick, to whom you gave money, express their heartfelt gratitude to you for these paternal gifts, and commend themselves to your holy prayers. May heaven break the insupportable yoke of their brethren, and soon grant them an honourable liberty, the indispensable right of every man.

"Your sincere Friend,

"VASA GIVANOVITCH,

*"Prefect of the District of Craïna.*

"Negotin, 14/26 December, 1876."

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From the Archpriest of Negotin:—

"NEGOTIN,

*"December 7/19, 1876.*

"MUCH ESTEEMED SIR AND BROTHER IN CHRIST,

"Nothing less than Christian sympathy for the poor victims of the present war, the only aim of which is to free ourselves from the impious hands of the savage Asiatics, could have moved you to take so long and laborious a journey in order to bear comfort to them, and dry the bitter tears of their unhappy fortune. Your sacrifice provokes joy in the heart of every Servian. The Servian nation must ever cherish a deep sense of the humanity and civiliza-

tion which characterize the English people, and which are so nobly manifested by our English brothers and sisters, not only by the protection thus accorded to our brethren suffering under the insupportable yoke of our common enemy, but also by the rich succours which they thus fraternally bring to his victims.

"Praise and glory belong to the possessors of these Christian virtues, among whom you, my friend and brother, as well as your honourable colleagues, occupy the foremost place. In the name of the sufferers whom you have had the goodness to console by your gifts, I, as minister of the Church of Christ, express to you our sincerest thanks, praying the Almighty to multiply such philanthropic souls, and to send upon you his benediction, bearing you back happily to your home to find all your loved ones safe and well.

"Upon your return bear our salutation to all who know us, expressing the fervent prayer that their wishes and yours for us be quickly realized.

"Praying heaven to protect you on your way, I wish you a prosperous journey, and may it please God that we meet again under circumstances happier for the Christianity of the East.

"Commending myself to your friendship, I beg you to accept the assurance of my highest regard.

"Your Brother in Christ,

"DIMITRY GIVON MILOIKOWITCH,

*"Archpriest of Negotin, Member of the Consistoire Appellatoire,  
Professor in the Gymnase of Negotin."*

"To the Rev. W. O. Lamson, Prêtre, &c.,  
Representative of the League," &c.

BY TELEGRAM.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BELGRADE, January 16, 1877.

The Servian Government has conferred the Gold Cross of the Order of the Takovo upon Mr. Lewis Farley and the Rev. W. O. Lamson, in recognition of their services to the cause of the Christians of Turkey.

## THE "ORIENTAL STAR."

*From the "MANCHESTER CRITIC."*

"‘THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY,’ with the view of helping to dissipate the ignorance existing in this country in reference to the past and present condition of the much oppressed Christians in the Ottoman Empire, have decided upon issuing an official gazette, the *ORIENTAL STAR*, the first number of which is before us. The opening article, ‘The Eve of the Conference,’ shows how the obliquity and misconception of British diplomacy have brought England into an equivocal position, in which Turkey regards her as almost pledged to stand by her in all events, and through which Englishmen are presented to the world as upholding the vilest oppression known to the personal experience of this generation. From this false position, adds the writer, England must recede, whatever the retreat may cost the pride of British diplomatists. An exhaustive description of the reforms necessary in Turkey follows. We commend the paper to the study of all desiring to have a thorough acquaintance with the question of the day. Mr. J. Lewis Farley, who was one of the first to begin this agitation in England, is the Secretary to the League, and his name is a guarantee for the trustworthiness of the *ORIENTAL STAR*.”

## SICK AND WOUNDED RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.

From His Excellency P. de Mauritz, Private Secretary of  
Her Majesty the Empress of Russia:—

“CHANCELLERIE DE SA MAJESTÉ L'IMPÉRATRICE,

“ST.-PETERSBOURG,

“August 5, 1877.

“MONSIEUR,

“I have had the pleasure to submit to Her Majesty the Empress, the august patroness of the Red Cross Society in Russia, the letter you were good enough to address to me, and I am commanded to inform you that all offerings which ‘THE LEAGUE IN AID OF THE CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY’ may send to the said society for the relief of our sick and wounded soldiers will be received with sincere gratitude.

“In acquitting myself of this command, I take the opportunity of renewing to yourself the assurance of my most cordial esteem.

“MAURITZ.

“To Monsieur Lewis Farley.”

From His Excellency P. de Mauritz, Private Secretary of  
Her Majesty the Empress of Russia:—

“ST.-PETERSBOURG,

“August 14-26, 1877.

“MONSIEUR,

“Agreeably with your letter of the 5-17th of this month, I have to acknowledge the receipt of one thousand roubles which your committee has been good enough to place at the disposal of the Red Cross for relief of the sick and wounded Russian soldiers. Having brought this offering to the knowledge of Her Majesty the Empress, I am commanded to convey to the committee, as well as to its indefatigable secretary, the sincere thanks of our august Pro-



tectress, who is much gratified at this testimony of sympathy for a work instituted under her patronage.

"In acquitting myself, by the present letter, of Her Majesty's orders, I also fulfil the duty of informing you that the sum of one thousand roubles offered by your committee has been to-day paid into the fund of the central office of the Red Cross.

"I take, with great pleasure, this opportunity of renewing to yourself the assurance of my most cordial esteem.

"MAURITZ.

"Monsieur Lewis Farley."

From Aide-de Camp General Baumgarten, President of the Russian Red Cross Society at St. Petersburg :—

"DIRECTION CENTRALE,

"ST.-PETERSBOURG,

"August 25 (September 6), 1877.

"MONSIEUR,

"The Central Direction of the Red Cross Society has received with great satisfaction the announcement of the formation of your committee for relief of the sick and wounded Russian soldiers in the present war. The formation of this committee is a striking proof of the good international relations which have never been found wanting whenever the interests of humanity and civilization were at stake.

"Having had the honour, in the name of the society, of bringing to the knowledge of Her Majesty the Empress the fact of the formation of your committee, Her Majesty has been pleased to express her high appreciation of your efforts, and has commanded me to convey to you, as well as to the committee, the expression of her sincere gratitude.

"Accept, Monsieur, the assurance of my most cordial esteem.

"The President of the Central Direction,

"Aide-de-Camp General BAUMGARTEN.

"To Monsieur Lewis Farley."

From His Excellency P. de Mauritz, Private Secretary to  
Her Majesty the Empress of Russia:—

“CHANCELLERIE DE SA MAJESTÉ L'IMPÉRATRICE,

“ST. PETERSBURG,

“August 30 (*September 11*), 1877.

“MONSIEUR,

“Messrs. Thomson, Bonar, and Co., bankers, of this capital, have handed me the sum of 20,000 roubles, offered by your committee as announced in your letter of 4th September (new style). I have had the pleasure of also bringing this remittance to the knowledge of Her Majesty the Empress, and I am commanded to convey her sincere thanks to the members of the committee, and to express to them how much she has been gratified with their gift, destined to relieve so many wounded, and also a large number of necessitous families, sorely tried by the present war.

“In begging you, Monsieur, to be the interpreter of these sentiments to the committee, I fulfil the duty of informing you that, according to the desire of the donors, the sum you have remitted shall be divided into two parts, one of which shall be appropriated in relieving our wounded, and the other distributed among the widows of the combatants who have fallen on the field of battle, and also employed in the education of some of the orphans. This mode of distribution agrees perfectly with the gracious intentions of Her Majesty the Empress.

“I have received the list of the persons who have contributed to this offering, and shall not fail to have it published in our journals.

“Accept, Monsieur, the renewed assurances of my most cordial esteem.

“MAURITZ.

“To Monsieur Lewis Farley.”

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## THE TREATMENT OF RUSSIAN PRISONERS AND WOUNDED BY THE TURKS.

*From the "DAILY NEWS," October 23, 1877.*

"A conference was held yesterday, at 3, Craven Street, Strand, between the Committee of the Sick and Wounded Russian Soldiers' Relief Fund, 14, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, and the Committee of the National Aid Society, with reference to the fate of the Russian wounded and prisoners who fall into the hands of the Turks. The action of the former committee was suggested by a letter received by Mr. Lewis Farley from the Princess Marie Bariatinsky, of which the following is an extract:—'The fate of our poor wounded soldiers and prisoners appals us, and we anxiously seek for some news of them. Those who fall into the hands of the English we know are saved, but alas for the others! The wounded of Plevna, Lovtcha, and of the army before Rustchuk—what has become of them? We hear nothing of them in the newspapers, while the railway brings us thousands of Turkish prisoners, who are treated and cared for according to all the laws of humanity and hospitality. As I have said, the fate of our wounded prisoners who fall into the hands of the English surgeons is assured; but can nothing be done to cause the Turkish soldiers to take the Russian wounded to the English ambulances? Not having any communication with the Turkish ambulances and hospitals, we beseech you to communicate with the committees which have ambulances in the Turkish army, and see if they will help to rescue our poor wounded prisoners.'

"Mr. Lewis Farley, having read the letter, said that while there were between nine and ten thousand Turkish prisoners in the hands of the Russians—who were well treated and cared for—nothing was heard of the Russian prisoners in Turkey. The Turkish wounded in the Russian hospitals were tended with the same care as the Russians, Bulgarians, or Roumanians, but they did not hear of any Russians in the English or Turkish hospitals.

"Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay said he believed that when the Russian wounded fell into the hands of the Turkish regulars their safety was

assured—though this might not be so when they fell into the hands of the irregulars. All wounded, however, whether Russians or Turks, when brought to the English ambulances were treated alike.

“Mr. Farley said that the important question was, how were the Russian wounded to be got to the English ambulances?”

“The Rev. W. T. Freer said that the committee were so convinced of the importance of taking action that they were prepared to place funds at the disposal of the National Aid Society, in order to carry out the suggestions contained in the letter of the Princess Bariatinsky.

“Mr. Lloyd, who had just returned from Bucharest, remarked that before acting in the direction indicated it would be advisable to institute inquiries.

“Major de Winton admitted that there were great difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestions contained in the letter of the Princess, but he felt convinced that the National Aid Society would not be wanting in their efforts to give effect to these suggestions, when there was a possibility of doing so.

“Mr. G. Hamilton Fletcher asked whether specific instructions could not be sent to the agents of the National Aid Society, so that for the future, at all events, the necessary care should be taken to bring in the Russian wounded left on the field.

“Colonel Loyd-Lindsay said that he would telegraph to Mr. Young at Constantinople and Mr. Leslie at the Shipka Pass to take all possible measures to carry out the suggestions which had been made, and to report immediately the results to him. He would, in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Farley, ascertain the number of the Russian wounded in Turkish hospitals. He said, however, that there were English officers with the Turkish armies in whom the Government placed great confidence, and who would no doubt report any maltreatment of Russian wounded and prisoners.”

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From Aide-de-Camp General Baumgarten, President of the Russian Red Cross Society at St. Petersburg :—

“COMITÉ CENTRAL RUSSE DE SECOURS AUX MILITAIRES

“BLESSÉS ET MALADES,

“ST.-PETERSBOURG,

“September 15-27, 1877.

“MONSIEUR,

“In acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of 15th September, I have the honour to inform you that we perfectly appreciate and agree with the views of your committee in reference to their having an English representative at the seat of war, from whom they will be able to receive such information as may be useful and necessary.

“Mr. Lamson shall be specially recommended to the care of Mr. De Richter, the delegate of our Society at Bucharest, by whose aid he will be certain to obtain everything required for the fulfilment of his mission.

“Accept, Monsieur, the assurance of my sincere esteem.

“A. BAUMGARTEN.

“To Monsieur Lewis Farley.”

(BY TELEGRAM FROM BUCHAREST.)

*From “THE TIMES” Special Correspondent.*

“BUCHAREST,

“October 12, 1877.

“Doctor George H. Lamson, of the Sick and Wounded Russian Soldiers’ Relief Fund, arrived here this evening, and will proceed at once to assist the Medical Departments in caring for the wounded. Doctor Lamson served in the French Army during the last war, and was in Servia last summer during the campaign.”



From the Special Correspondent of the "STANDARD:"—

" BUCHAREST,

" November 13, 1877.

" Doctor Lamson has had wide experience in his vocation, for he served through the Franco-German war, and last year through the Servian war. He represents Mr. Lewis Farley's Committee, and enjoys the unique advantage of being the only foreign surgeon recognized by the Russian Red Cross Society. In the latter capacity he devotes a portion of his time to the Russian Central Military Hospital in Bucharest. This gentleman, when the hospital was ready at the end of last week for their reception, proceeded himself to Turnu Magurelli, and from the overflowing tents and hospitals of that huge lazarette selected thirty of the worst cases he could find. Distinguishing his charges by a linen brassard bearing the imprint, '*Spitalul Engles*,' he brought them up himself to the new hospital, where everything was ready for their reception. The men had all been wounded in the last unsuccessful attempt to storm the Turkish redoubt near Gravitza, their hurts having been received principally in the hands and arms as they were endeavouring to escalate the parapet of the place. The poor fellows were in a sad condition. Unwashed since they had been before Plevna—for, as they said, they could not get water enough to drink, much less for ablution—they were much depressed from exposure, and with several the cases were complicated by frostbite; they are, however, for the most part, doing well. There were two or three cases causing some anxiety. One was that of a young man (a Roumanian) shot in the hand, who required amputation of a finger; but from exposure he had become smitten with consumption in both lungs, and it was feared he could not stand what sounds like a comparatively trivial operation. There was one case of gangrene which gave every indication of a fatal termination. The comfort and care the patient has since received have apparently turned the scale, and there is now every prospect of his recovery. He was isolated in a large airy compartment, and sitting by his bedside, when I visited the hospital, was a middle-aged peasant, who had walked 40 miles to see his wounded boy. It was

very pleasant to note the mingled expression of joy on the father's face, now that he was assured the son he had given up for lost would be restored to him, and of gratitude to those who were showing him such devoted attention."

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From the Baroness de Rahden, Directress of the Central  
Depôt of the Russian Red Cross Society at St. Petersburg :—

" ST. PETERSBURG,

" *September 8-20, 1877.*

" MONSIEUR,

" Will you allow me to suggest the things most necessary to be sent for the future for our soldiers? The wounded often spend long nights in open cars, and want good blankets, warm jackets, and stockings on their painful journeys from the battle-fields of Bulgaria to the Roumanian hospitals or sanitary trains. Anything woollen will be most welcome. I am authorized by Her Majesty the Empress to express this wish for the central depôt, in which, you will remember, I take a part.

" Believe me, yours faithfully,

" C. RAHDEN.

"To Monsieur Lewis Farley."

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From the " JOURNAL DE ST.-PETERSBOURG :"—

" *October 20, 1877.*

" We learn that, thanks to the committee organized by Mr. Lewis Farley, two shipments of blankets, woollen vests, and stockings, medical stores, &c., for our wounded, have arrived from London on board the steamers *Onéga* and *Viatka*, and that a third shipment is shortly expected by the steamer *Odessa*.

From the "JOURNAL DE ST.-PETERSBOURG:"—

"November 2, 1877.

"We learn that the English Committee, organized in London by Mr. Lewis Farley, has just made a fourth shipment of various articles destined for the sick and wounded of our army. This shipment comes by the steamer *Strelna* for our capital, where we hope it will arrive before the entry into the port of Cronstadt is stopped by the ice."

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From the "JOURNAL DE ST.-PETERSBOURG:"—

"November 16, 1877.

"A letter from Mr. Farley announces a further shipment (the fifth) of blankets and woollen clothing, of a superior quality, on board the *Lena*, for our sick and wounded. The articles composing this shipment will be forwarded to the Rev. Mr. Lamson at Bucharest, in order that he may have a special stock of warm clothing and medical stores during his visits to the hospitals. Two other shipments are *en route*, but, in view of the probable freezing of the port of Cronstadt, they will be landed at Riga and at Reval.

"The Rev. Mr. Lamson, delegate of the committee, leaves St. Petersburg to-morrow for Bucharest. The time he has passed in our capital will certainly not be lost to the humanitarian cause which he serves with so much devotion. He has seen, and he will be able to make known to his compatriots, the earnestness and zeal that all here, the highest classes included, manifest in giving their time and labour to the work of the Red Cross, and the gratitude with which they receive the testimonies of sympathy, modest as they may be, which come to us from abroad."

# THE LEAGUE

IN AID OF THE

## CHRISTIANS OF TURKEY.

FOUNDED DECEMBER, 1875.

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 The Rev. E. A. Were, M.A.  
 The Rev. Cecil Wray, M.A.

### OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE.

The objects of the League are to aid the Christians of Turkey in obtaining their freedom from Mussulman oppression, and to assist in relieving the distress arising out of the war.

The League was the first to arouse sympathy in this country for the oppressed Christians of Turkey, by placing their condition in its true light before the British public. It was also the first to send relief to the sick and wounded in Serbia, as it was also the first to send relief to the sick and wounded Russian and Roumanian soldiers.

Much permanent good has been achieved, but much more remains to be done. Even after peace is made, there will still be some millions of Christians in European Turkey, as well as in Asia Minor and Syria, whose interests require to be efficiently represented. The work which has been done is evidence of what may be accomplished in the future, and the Council earnestly appeal to those friends who have already shown their practical sympathy, as well as to every one who desires the advancement of liberty and civilization.

Subscriptions may be paid to Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., Bankers, 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.; to the Members of the Council; or to

J. LEWIS FARLEY, *Secretary.*

14, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, London, S.W.,  
 January 1, 1878.

CLAYTON & Co., Temple Printing Works, 17, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street.

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